

4th Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2025

Opening Hymn #436

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

1. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

2. My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

3. Yea, tho' I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

4. My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

5. Goodness and mercy, all my life,
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

Invocation

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Confession and Absolution

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen

Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis – sing

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

1. Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King

2. Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within

3. Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:

Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The First Lesson – Acts 20:17-35

¹⁷Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own

selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Psalm of the Day- Psalm 23 **WS p. 36**

Antiphon – The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my | shepherd;*

I | shall not want.

He makes to lie down in green | pastures;*

He leads me beside the still | waters.

He re- | stores my soul;*

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His | name's sake.

Antiphon – The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no | evil;*

For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they | comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my | enemies;*

You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs | over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days | of my life;*

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for- | ever.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Antiphon – The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Second Lesson – Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The Gospel – John 10:22-30

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

P: Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

The Alleluia – sing

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confession of Faith – Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit The holy Christian Church, The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day #431
The King of Love My Shepherd Is

1. The King of Love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home, rejoicing, brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.
5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight,
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh! the transport of delight
With which my cup o'erfloweth.
6. And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

Sermon Text – Psalm 23

Sermon

The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep

Offertory – sing

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Heavenly Father, in Your name Your Son purchased us with His own most holy blood, and He now leads us through the gate of death to our eternal home with You. As the sheep of His fold, inspire us to hear His voice gladly and to follow Him steadfastly through every tribulation.

**1. I lie, O Lord, within Your care,
Awake or when I'm sleeping.
Whoever trusts in Your strong arms
Is safe within Your keeping.**

P: Lord God, Shepherd of souls, Your apostle Paul promised that fierce opposition and twisted speech would come against Your Church, even from within her own fold. Raise up faithful men to pastor Your flock through these threats, and grant that they would not shrink from proclaiming the kingdom of Christ.

**2. Lord, You alone keep constant watch;
My restless heart You quiet.
When darkness fills the night with fear,
I will by faith defy it.**

P: Lord of all the living, You shepherd Your saints through the gate of death, out of all tribulation, to the very throne room of heaven. Bless those who grieve [*for _____*], and give them eyes of faith to see the deaths they mourn in light of the resurrection of Your Son.

3. When shadows fall, I will not dwell

**On troubles that distress me,
Nor let some painful memory
Embitter and oppress me.**

P: Lord, enthroned in heaven, You gather Your saints into the shelter of Your presence, making them white in the blood of the Lamb. Keep us faithful throughout our lives here, and bring us through death to join them in the ceaseless praises of heaven.

**4. It is enough that You are near;
I need not now discover
What hidden plans You have for me,
My future's path uncover.**

P: Father in heaven, You have given us a mirror of Your love in the vocation of mothers who nurture, guide and raise their children in all things good. Bless them in their calling. Sustain them through weary and difficult times. Remember in compassion all who are barren, and bring them comfort through the children of Your Church.

**5. Tomorrow's road I cannot trace
Nor know what ills will meet me.
You only ask that I be still
And trust You there will greet me.**

P: O God, our King, You are Lord of all peoples, nations and tribes. Grant wisdom and truth to those who rule this land, that they may faithfully promote good and punish evil. Wherever our courts or laws are contrary to Your will, reform them for Your mercy's sake.

**6. Each dawning day to which I wake
will show Your hand still guiding
And ev'ry good my life requires
Your grace again providing.**

P: O Lord, You have not forgotten us in our afflictions or abandoned us in our weakness. Deliver the sick and suffering according to Your will, and give comfort to the dying, especially to those who have

requested our prayers [*including* _____]. Guard us against despair, and grant us patience in the days of our trouble as we await Your perfect healing.

**7. Though troubles still may cloud the sky,
I'll see beyond them shining
A light to show some hidden way --
A way of Your designing.**

P: O Lord, You promised to raise up a shepherd to deliver Your sheep from all their enemies. We give You thanks for giving us Your own Son to be our Good Shepherd. Grant us to hear His voice, know Him by faith and follow where He leads, that He may deliver us into Your arms forever; through the same ****please stand**** Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn #648
I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

1. I am Jesus' little lamb,
Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my need, and well provides me,
Loves me every day the same,
Even calls me by my name.

2. Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my Staff and Stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.

3. Who so happy as I am,
Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast,
There within His arms to rest.

Silent Prayer

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